

The Annual Report for the Year 1947 of the Medical
Officer of Health to the Loddon Rural
District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Loddon Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1947. It is written in accordance with the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Yours faithfully,

W.W. Sinclair. M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.
M.O.H. Loddon Rural District.

Vital Statistics;

The main points are as follows. Further details are given below.

The Registrar General estimates the population to be 12,000, which is 140 more than in 1946 and now only 160 less than it was in 1938, thus showing a favourable trend in the population. The Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population is 18.25, which is slightly more than that of 1946, but still less than 20.5 per 1000, which is the average for England and Wales. In 1946 10.01% of live births in Loddon R.D. were illegitimate and in 1947 the figure was 7.6, which continues the slow decline since the war.

The still Birth Rate per 1000 total births was 17.93 which compares favourably with the Country as a whole.

The Death Rate for the year per 1000 estimated population was 11.92, which is almost the same as for 1946 and is slightly less than the average for England and Wales. The Death Rate continues to be considerably less than the Birth Rate so that you may continue to expect further increase in the population of your District.

The mortality rate for infants under one year per 1000 live births was 54.8 which is a good deal more than for 1946 when the figure was 8.77. If maintained, this unfavourable increase will call for an intensification of infant welfare measures in your district.

No woman died during the year as a result of pregnancy. This indicates a high standard of ante-natal and natal care.

A feature of the year was the small number of infectious diseases notified. There were only 20 cases not including tuberculosis. There were no cases of Infantile Paralysis in your District in 1947.

Five Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one Case of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified from your District during the year. At the end of 1947 there were 60 known cases of Tuberculosis in the District. At 31st. December, 1941 the number of cases was 57 so that there is no marked increase of tuberculosis in Loddon R.D. over a period of 6 years. This bears out the impression gained from examination of the vital statistics of the District, namely, that there is no deterioration in the health of the population as a whole although

to sheet. 2.

complaints of increased proneness to fatigue among adults are common. The Children in your District, whom I examine regularly, in my opinion, have probably never been healthier. If projected improvements in the structural conditions of the schools in which the children spend so much of their early years, are carried into effect then, in my opinion the gratifying improvement in the health and physique of school children will be further maintained.

Generally speaking, therefore, the Council may derive satisfaction from a successful year so far as it concerns the health of the population of the Loddon Rural District.

Details of Vital Statistics.

Births and Deaths:

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	91	110	201
Illegitimate	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>
	<u>100</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>219</u>

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population - 18.25.

Still Births.

Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

Still Birth Rate per 1000 live births 17.93

Deaths

Number - 143. (Males 77. Females 66).

Death Rate per 1000 estimated population - 11.92.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Nil.

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

Legitimate	4	4	8
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births - 54.74.

Deaths of Tuberculosis - 2
Deaths from Influenza - 3
Other Notifiable Infectious Diseases - Nil
Deaths from Cancer - 15
Deaths from Heart Disease - 53

Causes of Death: (Analysis)

Total (all ages).

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3
Influenza	3
Cancer	15
Diabetes	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	14
Heart Disease	53
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6
Bronchitis	9

Pneumonia	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1
Appendicitis	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3
Nephritis	2
Premature Birth	3
Congenital Malformations etc.	5
Suicide	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1
Other Violent Causes.	4
	<u>143</u>

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases During 1947 the following notifiable Infectious Diseases occurred in the Loddon Rural District.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Number of Cases</u>
Pneumonia	6
Erysipelas	3
Scarlet Fever	3
Measles	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Whooping Cough	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	1

Water supplies and Sewage Disposal.

These are referred to in the report of the Sanitary Inspector which is attached. Mains water supplies are from the Norwich City supply and are of the same chemical and bacteriological constitution as for Norwich. The water is chlorinated before going into the mains.

Most of the houses in the District are still supplied with water from wells and the majority of these wells are shallow. The shallow wells in the low lying marshy areas of the District are a source of anxiety because of their liability to pollution.

Housing.

Under the terms of the Rural Housing Survey, which has been going on in the District, up to 31st. December, 1947, 1,972 houses had been inspected and classified. Of this number 7.8 per cent were found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of being made so 42.8 per cent were found to be unfit for human habitation but capable of being made fit by major housing repairs. This reveals an unsatisfactory state of affairs which the Council is doing its best to relieve. I am not satisfied however, that enough is being done in the way of repair to houses, which are capable of being made to comply with decent sanitary standards. Now that there is some relaxation in the matter of regulations governing the repair of houses it is to be hoped that the Council will cause an increasing number of notices to be served on house owners so that the District may derive the maximum benefit from the facts elicited by the Housing Survey, and necessary repairs be carried out.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the

year - 1947

To the Chairman and Members of
The Loddon Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit, as your Sanitary Inspector, the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

Bakehouses.

There are three in the district, and are kept satisfactorily.

Slaughterhouses etc.

No killing has taken place in Slaughter houses since the Government established central killing, other than the killing of pigs for owners' own consumption, under licence from the Food Office. Four Slaughter houses are licensed to kill pigs under licence.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Licensed Slaughtermen number 14.

Disinfection

Fumigation was carried out in 11 houses - four in respect of verminous premises.

Water Supply.

With the exception of Brooke, Seething and along Ditchingham Dam, the majority of houses are supplied from wells.

The Loddon and Chedgrave Main has been laid to Ward's Corner, Loddon, from Brooke via Kirstead, Seething, Mundham and Sisland. The branch main has been laid to Loman Grove Housing Estate and as far as Stubbs Green. 32 Council Houses are supplied with mains water at Loman Grove, Loddon, 14 direct and 18 from 9 standpipes.

The connections made were as follows :-

Parish	Connections made - 1947		Private	Total for year	Grand Total to date
	Council Houses	Standpipes			
	House.				
Brooke	16	-	19	35	44
Loddon	14	9 (Supplying 18 houses)	1	24	24
Totals:				59	68

Drainage and Sewerage

A temporary scheme for Council Houses has been laid at Brooke. Work on the main scheme is proceeding at

Loddon and Brooke.

Scavenging, as in previous years, is carried out by contract in the parishes of Loddon, Chedgrave and part of Ditchingham. These schemes are working satisfactorily.

Condemnation of Food.

The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

	<u>Tins.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Corned Beef	40	209
Corned Mutton	2	12
Stewed Steak		3
Bacon		33 ³ / ₄
Butter		12
Peas	2	
Beans	5	
Milk	55	
Pork Sausage		5
Cheese		16 3 ozs.
Haslet		3 ¹ / ₄
Orange Juice	1	
Marmalade	2	
Peaches	1	
Tomatoes	1	
Rhubarb	1	
Plums	2	
Liver		8 ¹ / ₂
1 Pig's Mesenteric Fat		
1 Pig's Kidney		

Summary of work done and registrations

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926

Milk (Special Designations) Orders

Cowkeepers - Producers and Retailers	173
Butter Makers	5
Milkshops	1
Accredited Producers	62
T.T. Producers.	25

Bakehouses - 3

Housing Inspections - Rural Housing Survey etc.

Houses inspected	672
Houses found overcrowded	77
Nuisances detected	845
Nuisances abated	304
Letters sent to owners to abate nuisances	7
Total number of houses up to 31.12.47 provisionally classified in Categories 3 and 4	845
Category 5	154
Visits for infectious disease	12
Houses fumigated	12

Inspections

Cowsheds	32
Dairies	18
Bakehouses	6

Inspections (Contd).

Knackers	6	
Small Dwellings Acquisition Act	5	
Visits re Sewerage	78	
Special Visits with M.O.H.	7	
Special Visits	110	
Special Complaints	11	
Special visits re Water Supply	58	
Special Visits re Food Poisoning	14	
(5 samples taken - 4 contained staph. aureus)		
Special visits re Scavenging	10	
Houses visited re Flooding	157	
Visits re Civil Building Licensing	87	
Meat Inspection	43	Carcasses of Pork.

Building Byelaws

Plans submitted	70
Plans approved	74
Dwellings in course of erection at 31.12.47.	9
Drains tested and found satisfactory	97

Housing and Town Planning

Plans submitted	55
approved	54
refused	1

Slaughter Houses

Licensed	4
Inspections	26

Cowsheds and Dairies

Cowsheds built or reconstructed	8
Dairies reconstructed	4
Approach to sheds concreted	3

Diphtheria Immunisation

Since the commencement of this campaign, immunisation has been carried out as follows:-

Under 5 years of age	693
Over 5 years of age	1,622

Of this number, 78 under five years of age, and 17 over five years, were immunised during the year 1947.

Control of Civil Building

Applications for building licences were received in connection with :-

New Premises	17
Conversions	2
Repairs, Housing	344
Repairs, Non-Housing	179

Total: 542

Control of Civil Building (Contd)

No. of Licences issued

542

Rats and Mice Infestation Order, 1943

During the year, house to house inspections were carried out in the larger parishes, and treatment given where necessary.

Ice Cream Registrations - 2

Inspections	8
Samples taken	4
Failures	2

Water Samples.

20 Water Samples were taken.

Dwelling Houses etc.

	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Abated</u>
Water Supply	10	1
Foul Privy Bins	6	6
Drains Defective	87	10
Drains choked	2	2
Absence of Sinks	423	4
Walls, Plaster, Brickwork defective	120	10
Walls damp	98	22
Windows defective, insufficient area and/or opening spaces	148	8
Stoves defective	22	5
Coppers defective	17	4
Stairs defective	110	24
Cellings defective	210	108
Ovens defective	10	10
Dood Stores unventilated	11	2
Roofs defective	126	12
Close ts defective	44	20
Chimney defective	32	6
Eaves gutters, Rainwater Pipes defective	21	6
Floors defective and /or damp	153	44

My thanks are again due to the Council and Committee for such interest and support as they have given during the year to further the cause of Public Health.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

K.S.STARLING,

C.R.S.I., M.I.H., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector
Building Surveyor.